

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

25X1

ORIG:

Approved For Release

2005/02/10 : CIA-RDP75B00159R000100170044-5

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TO

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IDEALIST/

SUBJECT: LOX CONVERTER CHECK VALVES

25X1

REF: (1)

DATED 19 DECEMBER 68

(2)

DATED 30 DECEMBER 68

(3)

DATED 28 DECEMBER 68

1.

DOES NOT CONCUR WITH RECOMMENDATION IN REF 2 TO REPLACE ALL EXISTING CHECK VALVES WITH STAINLESS STEEL VALVE BODIES AT THIS TIME FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. MORE FLIGHT EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED TO VERIFY WHETHER OR NOT THE POPPET REDESIGN AS PER REF 1 HAS SOLVED THE LOX PROBLEMS. THESE CHANGES WERE MADE TO MAKE THE VALVE LESS SENSITIVE TO CONTAMINATION. IF FLIGHT EXPERIENCE SHOWS CONTINUED LOX PROBLEMS AND EVIDENCE OF ALUMINUM DEPOSITS IS FOUND ON DISASSEMBLY, THEN ALTERNATIVE ACTION MUST BE TAKEN. IN THE MEANTIME, TESTS MUST BE CONDUCTED

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BY [] TO DETERMINE SUITABILITY OF
STAINLESS STEEL VALVE BODIES WITH RESPECT TO ADEQUATE
SEALING OF THE POPPETS AGAINST STAINLESS STEEL SEATS PRIOR
TO ANY IN FLIGHT USE. LIQUID LEAKAGE COULD RESULT IN
HIGH PRESSURE/QUANTITY LOSS PROBLEMS.

B. IF FRETTING OR ELECTROLYTIC ACTION IS A PROBLEM WITH
THIS VALVE, IS THE SR-71, THAT HAS IDENTICAL VALVES AND
COMPONENTS, EXPERIENCING THIS PROBLEM? IF NOT, WHAT IS
UNIQUE ABOUT THE U-2R SYSTEM? ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS
MIGHT PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR CHANGING THE VALVE BODY.

C. INVESTIGATIONS OF ALTERNATE SOLUTIONS, BESIDE STAINLESS
STEEL VALVE CASES, MUST BE GOING ON WHILE FLIGHT EXPERIENCE
WITH REDESIGNED POPPETS IS ACCUMULATING, IN THE EVENT THE
LATTER EFFORT FAILS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS. INVESTIGATIONS
SHOULD INCLUDE THE USE OF FILTERED CHECK VALVES AND THE
USE OF LOX SYSTEMS WITHOUT CHECK VALVES SINCE OTHER
AIRCRAFT USE BOTH SUCH SYSTEMS.

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D. REGARDING DIFFICULTY IN CHANGING CHECK VALVES DUE TO
THREAD SEIZURE, THIS PROBLEM CAN BE TEMPORARILY OVERCOME
AS INDICATED IN REF 3. AS AN ALTERNATIVE PERMANENT FIX,
CHANGING THE MATERIAL OF THE MOUNT (P/N: DN-F-7405113-1)
FROM ALUMINUM TO A HARDER MATERIAL (STAINLESS) SHOULD BE
CONSIDERED SINCE THIS ITEM ALSO HAS 3 OTHER TAPPED PORTS
(1 FOR RELIEF VALVE, 2 FOR TUBING FITTINGS), INADDITION
TO THE CHECK VALVE PORT, THAT CAN EXPERIENCE SEIZURE
PROBLEMS DURING MAINTENANCE.

END OF MESSAGE

COORD:

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